



The Sword and the Family By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..."— Colossians 3:12

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-5 /Col 3:12-Lk 2:22-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1- 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 /Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Keep in touch with St. Justin's through our weekly email blast. If you are not receiving the weekly update, please email sjmooffice@stjustin.net and we will add you to the list!

Mass Intentions for the Week

feast of the **MOTHER OF GOD**

MONDAY ~ January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary

10:00am Dan Davison, *Shell Family*

***Not a Holyday of Obligation this year*

TUESDAY ~ January 2~ St. Basil The Great

8:30AM Mothers Day Remembrance

7:30PM Livestream Rosary on Facebook

WEDNESDAY~January 3~Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:30AM Clare Seece, *Tom & Kathy McCoy*

THURSDAY ~ January 4~St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30AM Rev. Robert M. Washko, *Newland Family*

FRIDAY ~ January 5 ~ St. John Neumann

8:30AM Rev. William Andrews

7:30PM Livestream Rosary on Facebook

SATURDAY ~ January 6 ~ Vigil Mass

5:00PM Edward C. Mayersky, *Mayersky Family*

5:00PM Livestream Mass

SUNDAY ~ January 7~ Feast of the Epiphany

8:00AM Mass for Parishioners

10:30AM Luis Rodriguez, *Naderer & Rodriguez Families*



Weekly Contributions December 17

Total Collection: \$8,564.00

Loose Money: \$110.00

Envelopes: \$8,454.00

No. of Env: 140 Avg. per Env: \$60.39

Student env.: 1 Total Households: 469

Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Count

Date 2023	5:00p	8:00a	10:30a	Total
December 3	142	78	187	407
December 10	104	85	196	385
December 17	132	91	154	377

From the Desk of Fr. Kevin,

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. We are more aware of how much we need the strength and guidance of our Faith for our families. The Gospels tell us that the Holy Family was subject to all the difficulties of our world. Jesus was born in the stable because there was no room in the inn. The family fled a murderous Herod and lived as refugees in Egypt before returning to their home. The adolescent Jesus even gave his parents some anxious moments. Husbands and wives, children and parents have the Holy Family as powerful intercessors for all their needs.

The Feast of the Holy Family calls us to pray for our own family and all families:

For Families

O God our Father, bind together in your all-embracing love every family on earth.

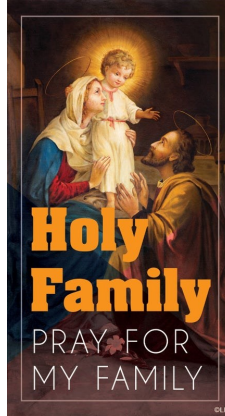
Banish anger and bitterness within them;
nourish forgiveness and peace.

Bestow upon parents such wisdom and patience
that they may gently exercise the discipline of love,
and call forth from their children
their greatest virtue and their highest skill.

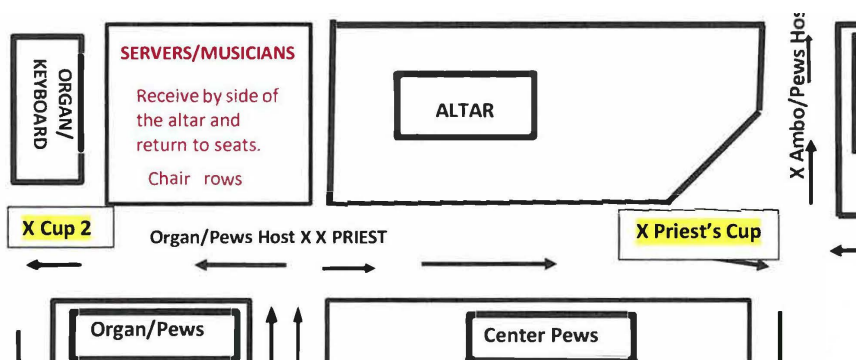
Instill in children such independence and self-respect
that they may freely obey their parents
and grow in the joys of companionship.

Open ears to hear the truth within the words another
speaks;

Open eyes to see the reality beneath another's appearance;
and make the mutual affection of families a sign of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



During this year of Eucharistic Revival in our parish we seek to enliven our relationship with the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. At Mass we want to restore receiving communion under both species, the bread that becomes the Body of the Lord and the wine that becomes the Blood of the Lord. Because of the limited number of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, **we will begin with two Ministers of the Cup at the 10:30 Mass.** We hope more people will answer the call to this ministry so that we can offer this at all weekend Masses. Please see the diagram below for the flow of the communion procession.



The Priest cup will have more wine in it and will serve the center pews, the ambo/pews and the chair section. If the Deacon is present, he will administer the priest cup. People from the chair section will need to come forward to the cup minister in order to receive precious blood. Cup 2 will serve the organ/pews section only.

Another important opportunity for ministry is serving on our Parish Pastoral Council. It has been a while since we have had a formal, functioning council. For information, go to our website www.stjustin.net and click on Ministries then Leadership. I would be happy to speak with you as well.

May we be blessed with a happy New Year! Peace, Fr. Kevin

We Follow Jesus in Faith, Prayer and Service

Thank you to all who have responded to our "We follow Jesus in faith,

prayer & service" Program.

- The **Collection for Birthright** on Christmas Eve was a big success. Thank you for your generosity.
- The **PSR students** will begin classes again on Monday, January 8.
- **Thank you** to Fr. Bill Bouhall & Fr. Lou Pizmoht for celebrating Christmas Masses with us.
- We will host our **Red Cross Blood Drive** on December 31 from 8am-2pm. Please sign up to save a life.
- The **Maintenance Team** will be working on maintenance in the gym this week.
- Join us next weekend for the **Frost Bite Breakfast** on Sunday, January 7!

There are great things going on here at our Parish! With your continued support we are able to make a difference in our community and the world.

In the coming weeks, we will have our full report to share with the parish from our "We Follow Jesus in Faith, Prayer and Service" Program that we asked parishioners to participate in. Our parishioners are so very generous with all their gifts. Your gratitude to God for His great gift of Jesus shows in your generosity in faith, prayer and service.



Receive & Remain (R&R)
January 25 at the
seminary's
Sacred Heart
Chapel

6:45pm Adoration, praise & worship,
7:30pm Mass, with Pizza Social
following. Come join the seminarians
for an evening of fellowship. Go to
CLEpriesthood.org for more
information.



New Year's Resolutions

The turn of another year brings about new opportunities and new beginnings. It is a chance for us to rethink and reorder our lives toward something better. For many this may mean focusing on quitting smoking, exercising more, losing weight or eating healthier. While these may be helpful for improving your physical self, **I would like to challenge you to improve your spiritual self.**

Pray. Pick up a prayer habit. If you are not praying much, start small. Pray in the morning. You can pray the *Morning Offering* or a simple Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be to start your day. Set an alarm for noon, when the chime rings, pray the *Angelus Prayer*. It takes about 90 seconds to pray and helps get you focused midday. Pray before you go to bed. Thank God for your day and offer an act of contrition for all the times you did not live up to your calling.

Pray more. If you already pray some, then dedicate more time. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. It takes about ten minutes to pray. Pray the Rosary. It takes about twenty minutes to pray. If you find these difficult to begin, pray with someone else. You can join in a group after daily Mass or you can join the Facebook rosary group on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Read the Bible. You can start small. This year we are going through Mark's gospel. It is sixteen chapters. If you read a chapter a day then by January 16, you will have read all Mark has to say about Jesus. Then go onto the next Gospel. If you want a bigger challenge, join Fr. Mike Schmidt in praying the Bible in a Year. Pick up your smart phone and find the Podcast app. Type "Bible in a Year" in the search feature and his face will pop-up. Subscribe and he will be there every day to take you on a twenty-minute (or so) journey. He reads you the chapters for the day and then offers a short breakdown of what you read.

Read the Catechism. If you've done all the suggestions above, then it's time to learn about the faith Tradition of our Church. What does the Church teach? It can really help you understand your faith better. You don't have to do this alone either, Fr. Mike Schmidt has recorded the whole thing. One day at a time he will walk you through the Catechism. See instructions above, except type "Catechism in a Year."

The best thing about these New Year's Resolutions is if you get off track, you can re-dedicate yourself to the task on February 14 when Lent starts. You will have already forged a path for your Lenten journey, you just need to stay focused on the path.

Peace and Blessings, Deacon Tim



PRAYER REQUESTS

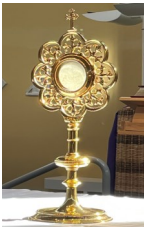
Please pray for all of our parishioners who are sick or hospitalized: Margaret Abel, Susan Adler, Sandy Almasy, Patricia Bacon, June Barr, Jeff & Sue Beam, Frank Brown, John Brown, Brian Bruening, Joan Bruening, Kathleen Cassidy, Marc Christovich, Sam Cilaberto, Kelly Cipiti, Carolyn & John Cutler, Diane DeBaltzo, Paul Dendinger, Dan & Frances Eppich, Pauline Feterman, Frank Germano, Marge Gorenc, Dave Granchi, Joanne Grisanti, Ruth Gryzmala, Julia Hill, Ann Hobart, Ed Hurayt, Melanie Hurayt, Daniel Jastredowski, Jela Katavic, Alexis Kramer, John Kelly, Katherine Kirsch, Jeri Kuzmak, Sherise Landrey, Brian Lloyd, Bob Marshall, Diane Marshall, Bud Martello, Ed Mayersky, Gary Meinke, Ann Miller, Bill Monreal, Anna Murray, Jenny Panella, Kellie Pastor, Kevin Perkins, Cindy Pike, Joe Ritzu, Joshua Rosian, Tim Rosian, Joan Rozak, Joyce Russo, Jackie Scheid, Hannah Shell, Audrey Smith, Ed Snyder, Chris Stano, Dorothy & Joe Strand, James Urbanek, Gregory Usko, Eva Variano, Phil Wolfson, Michael Wrayno, Ken Zalar, the shut-ins, those in nursing homes, needing prayers, and all of the intentions written in our Book of Prayers located in the gallery. **Please call the office if you would like someone added or removed, or email sjmoffice@stjustin.net.**

**Eucharistic Adoration:
Daily in the Chapel 9am-
4:30pm**

"He calls Himself, the bread of life, because He maintains our life both which is and which is to be, and says, Whosoever shall eat of this bread shall live for ever."

--St. John Chrysostom

Come spend time with Jesus.



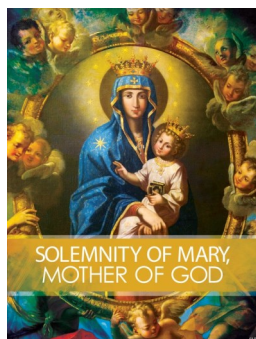
A great big **thank you** to Margie Zalar and our Art and Environment Committee for the beautiful decorations placed all around our worship space. Our parish is so blessed to have such a hard working crew that takes care of the church all throughout the year!



Charles Hunt, MA
Director of Religious Education
Charles@stjustin.net 440-946-3287

Doctrine Behind the Feast: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

From among the descendants of Eve, God chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of his Son. "Full of grace," Mary is "the most excellent fruit of redemption": from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life. Mary is truly "Mother of God" since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself. Mary "remained a virgin in conceiving her Son, a virgin in giving birth to him, a virgin in carrying him, a virgin in nursing him at her breast, always a virgin" (St. Augustine): with her whole being she is "the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38). The Virgin Mary "cooperated through free faith and obedience in human salvation". She uttered her yes "in the name of all human nature" (St. Thomas Aquinas). By her obedience she became the new Eve, mother of the living. (CCC 508-511)



Catholic Humor

A Jesuit, a Dominican, and a Franciscan were walking along an old road, debating the greatness of their orders. Suddenly, an apparition of the Holy Family appeared in front of them, with Jesus in a manger and Mary and Joseph praying over him. The Franciscan fell on his face, overcome with awe at the sight of God born in such poverty. The Dominican fell to his knees, adoring the beautiful reflection of the Trinity and the Holy Family. The Jesuit walked up to Joseph, put his arm around his shoulder, and said, "So, have you thought about where to send him to school?"

The Church and
Parish Office will be
closed on January

1 for New Years Day. There will be no Adoration. If you have an emergency, please call the office, follow the directions on the answering machine and someone will get back to you as soon as they can.

**HOLIDAY
OFFICE HOURS**

**Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes &
Spain | October 14-22, 2024**

**Hosted by Mary Ann Blase, Pam
Anthony with Fr. Kevin Liebhart**

Daily Masses, shrines, sites and more. All inclusive air, hotels, breakfasts, dinners, guided tours. Register early to save! Flyers available in the gallery.



Beth Rossetti, Pastoral Associate
beth@stjustin.net 440-946-1177

CONFIRMATION 2024 Our next session is our **Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, January 20 beginning at 9am-10pm.** Prayer partners you should have received a letter in the mail, if you have not please see Beth.



Thanks to our prayer partners for remembering our candidates. Cards can be dropped off anytime to the parish office and I'll mail them.

We are once again selling St. Justin Martyr Spirit Wear.

Order forms will be in the gallery of the Church. Sample shirts are available in the Parish Office.

Read the order forms for ordering directions.



Coffee and Conversation

*Due to Christmas and New Year we will not be meeting until January 4. **Enjoy your Christmas Break!***

The Funeral Ministry is in need of altar servers. You will be trained to be an altar server. You do not have to serve Sunday Mass only funerals on occasion. Contact Beth if you can help out.



I wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year may this year bring you much happiness and good health.

Beth

As we look to a new year and another birthday, may you pray this prayer on your birthday and for others throughout the year.

A Birthday Prayer

Today is my birthday *or today is (N), Lord* and I offer this day to You.

You breathed life into my soul, and You chose me to live!

On this journey called life, You are always with me.

I feel your presence in joy and laughter, during difficult days, even sorrow.

Of all the gifts I've received I hold the gift of Your love closest to my heart.

Of all the friends I've know, I cherish, above all, Your companionship.

I ask only that You walk with me and guide me to follow your faithful way.

Forgive me when I fail and help me to forgive others. Grant me strength in mind, body and spirit.

And when it's time, lead me home to the everlasting life you have prepared.

Today is my birthday, Lord, thank you for every blessing. Amen.

Priests of the Sacred Heart poshusa.org

St. Justin Martyr FROSTBITE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 8am-12pm | Parish Hall

Choice of Pancakes or French Toast | Scrambled Eggs | Home fries | Sausage | Beverage.

Adults \$12, Children 5-12 \$6, Kids under 5 eat free!

Come and join us in fellowship & fundraising! Pay at the door. No advance purchase necessary. Thank you to the Just In Time for Dinner Committee for sponsoring the event.



VOCATIONS AT THE CROSSROADS

The following parishioners are scheduled to receive the cross during the month of January:

Week of January 6-7 Nancy Marra

Week of January 13-14 Cindy Hardwick

Week of January 20-21 Barbara Paolucci

Week of January 27-28 Mary Wolf

If anyone cannot make their week, please call Joanne Fox at 440-339-0503. Thank you for your time and prayers.

Thank you to all who pray in this special way for vocations. If anyone is interested in also taking the cross home for a week, please call the parish office or Joanne Fox.



St. Justin Martyr Prayer Chain

Contact Mary Jane, 440-953-9729 or email mbuehner@ameritech.net.

Leave a message and we will add your intention to the prayer chain. If you would like to join us in prayer for our intentions, sign up to be a prayer warrior. Intentions will be emailed directly and confidentially to you at home for prayer support!



There are still Mass intentions available for 2024.

Stipend of \$10 per Mass.

Please stop in or call the Parish Office to schedule a Mass for a loved one. We have both weekday and weekend dates available for 2024. See the Parish Secretary.

Additional Memorials received for Church Flowers after the Bulletin publication last week.

JoAnn & Dick Floyd

Clarence Forsyth Family

Edna & Russel Gatchel

Jurick & DeGideo Families

Angela Konte & Family

Martynovich Family

McCoy Family

Milan Pilney Family

Frank Rezac Family

Rose & Joseph Rusiecki

Zaboroski Family



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Save a Life, Give Blood

Sunday, Dec. 31, 8am-2pm



St. Justin Martyr Parish

We follow Jesus in faith, prayer and service

Love for Life

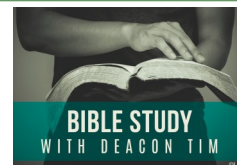
Making Medical Decisions... for Ourselves & Those We Love: A Guide for Catholics

Speaker: Andrew Trew

Cleveland Catholic Medical Association Guild & Bioethics Professor John Carroll University

January 14 at 1:00 pm in the ATR Room

RSVP at (440) 946-3287 or charles@stjustin.net



Lenten Bible Study with Deacon Tim

We will continue with the Gospel of Mark in our Bible study this Lent.

Join us on Thursdays, beginning January 11 at 7pm in the ATR.

Thursdays: January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.

Please register with Deacon Tim by email to let him know you are coming so he can send you the study guide, tim@stjustin.net.